



July 8, 2004

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
Attention: Amy Cohen (3WP32)

Re: Mountaire Farms of Delaware, Inc.  
Order on Consent

Dear Ms. Cohen:

In accordance with paragraph 51 of the above-referenced Order on Consent, we are submitting the attached written report summarizing all actions taken in accordance with this Order ("Progress Reports") for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, 2004.

*"I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to properly gather and evaluate information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations."*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Tirrell".

Michael Tirrell  
Vice President of Processing Operations



**Mountaire Farms of Delaware, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 1320, Millsboro, Delaware 19966  
(302) 934-1100 Toll Free (877) 887-1490

*"We measure quality by how well we service our internal and external customers"*

Cc: Edward Hallock (Delaware Dept. of Health & Social Services)  
Rodney Wyatt (Delaware Dept. of Natural Resources & Environmental Control)  
John Wren (Mountaire Farms)  
Jeff Smith (Mountaire Farms)  
Walter Moorhead (Mountaire Farms)  
Tom Miller (Mountaire Farms)  
Gordon Serman (Mountaire Farms)  
Jeremy Homer (Parkowski, Guerke & Swayze)

**Quarterly Progress Report  
(Reference Paragraph 51 of Order)**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2003 (April-May-June):**

- Per paragraph 34, all residents identified by sampling of nitrates above 10 mg/l who have requested bottled water have received bottled water.
- Per paragraph 36, a plan to provide a permanent alternate water supply was submitted via certified mail on July 16, 2003 to EPA for review and approval, with copies to DNREC and DHSS.
- Per paragraph 38, the wastewater treatment/spray irrigation system is being operated in a manner to control nitrogen loadings to the spray fields; the production wells are in operation (no irrigation wells operated due to substantial precipitation during the time period); quarterly groundwater sampling in progress.
- Per paragraph 47, a copy of the Order was sent to the following contractors via certified mail:
  - o Envirocorp Inc (testing laboratory); Date of delivery 6-12-03
  - o Eastern Shore Coffee (bottled water supplier); Date of delivery 6-14-03
  - o A.C. Schultes of DE (well driller); Date of delivery 6-30-03
- Monitoring well #38 replacement installed on 6-25-03.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter, 2003 (July-August-September)**

- Certified letters mailed to the following residents explaining the Order and requesting a meeting to discuss alternate water supply:
    - o Charles Burton
    - o Junior Lee & Martha Wise
    - o Preston Wise
    - o Patsy Taylor
    - o Richard & Patricia Johnson
    - o Robert & LouAnn Johnson
    - o Tom & Monica Johnson
- All letters received by the residents (copy of a sample letter and return receipts attached).
- Per paragraph 38, the wastewater treatment/spray irrigation system continues to be operated in a manner to control nitrogen loadings to the spray fields; the production wells are in operation and approximately 3.03 million gallons of groundwater was sprayed on the Cordrey Farm from the irrigation well located by spray field WHBJ 1; quarterly groundwater monitoring completed including the newly installed MW 38.

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter, 2003 (October-November-December)

- Meetings held with the following residents to explain the Order and the alternate water options. Acknowledgement letters left with residents (returned copies attached with their choice).
  - o Charles Burton: Spoke with Mr. Burton on October 10, 2003 to arrange the meeting. Mr. Burton stated he is planning on moving in the near future, does not want to pursue a well or treatment unit and prefers to continue with bottled water until he moves.
  - o Junior Lee & Martha Wise: Meeting held with the Wise's on October 13, 2003. Chose ion exchange treatment system.
  - o Preston Wise: Meeting held with the Wise's on November 8, 2003. Mr. Wise stated he would not sign the letter and wants to remain on bottled water\*.
  - o Lincoln & Patsy Taylor: Meeting held with the Taylor's on October 24, 2003. Chose ion exchange treatment system.
  - o Richard & Patricia Johnson: Meeting held with the Johnson's on October 15, 2003. Chose to remain on bottled water\*.
  - o Robert and Lou Ann Johnson: Meeting held with Lou Ann Johnson on November 11, 2003. Chose to remain on bottled water\*.
  - o Tom & Monica Johnson: Meeting held with the Johnson's on October 15, 2003. Chose to remain on bottled water\*.

\* It should be noted that during the meetings with the residents, it was explained that bottled water was not considered by EPA to be a long-term alternate source of water. However, several residents expressed their desire to remain on bottled water and were advised that EPA would probably be contacting them regarding this issue. Therefore, Mountaire is holding off on scheduling the installation of the two ion exchange units should the residents wanting bottled water change their minds after being contacted by EPA.

- Per paragraph 38, the wastewater treatment/spray irrigation system continues to be operated in a manner to control nitrogen loadings to the spray fields; the production wells are in operation, however, no irrigation wells were operated during the this quarter due to crop harvest and substantial precipitation; quarterly groundwater monitoring completed.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, 2004 (January-February-March)**

- Ion exchange units installed and operational at the following residences.
  - o Martha & Jr. Lee Wise (March 17, 2004)
  - o Preston Wise (March 17, 2004)
  - o Patsy & Lincoln Taylor (March 19, 2004)
- On March 23, 2004, drinking water samples were obtained from the three residences with the following results (analyses attached):
  - o Martha & Jr. Lee Wise- <1.0 ppm Nitrate as N
  - o Preston Wise- 1.48 ppm Nitrate as N
  - o Patsy & Lincoln Taylor- 18.1 ppm Nitrate as N\*\*

\*\* As a result of the nitrate levels in the treated water at the Taylor residence, Mountaire had the contractor (Sharp Water) return to the Taylor's to determine the cause of the elevated reading. Sharp determined that the piping under the house was not installed properly and corrected the piping. The Taylor's water was re-sampled on April 2, 2004 and verbal results from the lab (Envirocorp) showed a nitrate level of 2.53 ppm Nitrate as N. Hard copy of this analysis will accompany the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter report.

- Per paragraph 38, the wastewater treatment/spray irrigation system continues to be operated in a manner to control nitrogen loadings to the spray fields; the production wells are in operation, however, no irrigation wells were operated during this quarter due to sufficient precipitation for the cover crops planted; quarterly groundwater monitoring completed.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2004 (April, May, June)**

- Envirocorp analysis of the Taylor residence attached.
- In response to Deane Bartlett's letter of March 4, 2004 to Jeremy Homer regarding the addition of salt to the ion exchange units, Mountaire mailed letters to the residents (copy attached) offering to have the contractor add salt to their systems during delivery if they so desired. Mountaire received letters back from Martha/Jr. Lee Wise and Preston Wise accepting this offer. Sharp Water will contact the residents prior to delivery to ensure someone is home to allow access to the system.
- Per paragraph 38, the wastewater treatment/spray irrigation system continues to be operated in a manner to control nitrogen loadings to the spray fields; the production wells were in operation and 7.7 million gallons of groundwater was sprayed on fields WHBJ 5, 6 and the Cordrey Farm; quarterly groundwater monitoring completed.

**ENVIROCORP****Labs**

14 Commerce Street • Harrington, DE 19952 • (302) 398-4313 • FAX: (302) 398-4312  
info@envirocorplabs.com

04/12/04

Mountaire Poultry  
P.O. Box 1320  
Millsboro, DE 19966

Attention: Mr. Jeff Smith

Lab I.D.Description

13196D

Taylor resident grab @ 1020-hrs on 4/2/04 by client:  
received 4/2/04 by CMG of EI

ParameterUnitsResultsTest Date Time Init Method

Nitrate as N

mg/L

2.53

04/09/04 1420 EHK 4500

  
Supervising Analyst





April 13, 2004

Junior Lee Wise & Martha Wise  
RR 13 Box 13  
Millsboro, DE 19966

As you know, Mountaire has coordinated the installation of an ion exchange unit in your residence. As explained in our meeting, salt must be added periodically to ensure the proper operation of the unit. Although Mountaire will be providing salt to you at no charge through our contractor, Sharp Water, we were not planning on physically adding it to your unit. However, this letter advises that if you so desire, Mountaire is willing to have Sharp Water add the salt to your system when it is delivered to your home provided someone is there to allow Sharp Water access to the system. If you would prefer Sharp Water to perform that function, please notify me in writing. Enclosed is a self-addressed envelop with postage for that purpose.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey Smith".

Jeffrey Smith, REM  
Environmental Manager



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April 13, 2004

Preston Wise  
RR 10 Box 13  
Millsboro, DE 19966

As you know, Mountaire has coordinated the installation of an ion exchange unit in your residence. As explained in our meeting, salt must be added periodically to ensure the proper operation of the unit. Although Mountaire will be providing salt to you at no charge through our contractor, Sharp Water, we were not planning on physically adding it to your unit. However, this letter advises that if you so desire, Mountaire is willing to have Sharp Water add the salt to your system when it is delivered to your home provided someone is there to allow Sharp Water access to the system. If you would prefer Sharp Water to perform that function, please notify me in writing. Enclosed is a self-addressed envelop with postage for that purpose.

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April 13, 2004

Lincoln & Patsy Taylor  
RR 10 Box 12  
Millsboro, DE 19966

As you know, Mountaire has coordinated the installation of an ion exchange unit in your residence. As explained in our meeting, salt must be added periodically to ensure the proper operation of the unit. Although Mountaire will be providing salt to you at no charge through our contractor, Sharp Water, we were not planning on physically adding it to your unit. However, this letter advises that if you so desire, Mountaire is willing to have Sharp Water add the salt to your system when it is delivered to your home provided someone is there to allow Sharp Water access to the system. If you would prefer Sharp Water to perform that function, please notify me in writing. Enclosed is a self-addressed envelop with postage for that purpose.

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